

1982

Curran, Edward: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1985): Correspondence 03

Edward A. Curran

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Curran, Edward A., "Curran, Edward: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1985): Correspondence 03" (1982). *Curran, Edward: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1985)*. Paper 7.
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Office of the Director

*Digest of the letter that Secretary Bell used
to fire Ed Curran, the Director of N.I.E.*

May 26, 1982

Dear Mr. President,

After seven months here, I have concluded that the best way to advance your goals is to abolish this agency.

Your own Office Of Management and Budget (OMB) and Domestic Council Staff (Martin Anderson) have proposed that NIE be phased out. I agree for the following reasons:

1. The agency is unnecessary.
2. The agency is based on the premise that education is science. As a professional educator, I know that this premise is false. Our schools are in sad shape... because we lack the will to apply what we already know.
3. The agency wastes money... Taxpayers simply do not need a \$99,000 survey on the political attitudes of college professors, or a \$37,000 study of the 1973 New York City Board elections.
4. Every government agency is subject to political pressures, but at the NIE the pressures work overwhelmingly in only one direction: toward the left.

If NIE is abolished, the interest groups will lose; but the values of pluralism, democracy, and freedom will all gain.

Sincerely,

EDWARD A. CURRAN

APPROXIMATE DIGEST-----